



# **MEMA REPORTS**

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MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

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## **SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH**

President Barack Obama has again designated September as National Preparedness Month. Governor Deval Patrick has also proclaimed September as 'Preparedness Month' in Massachusetts. The governor's proclamation is available at [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema). The purpose of National Preparedness Month is to help motivate citizens and their families to become better prepared for emergencies. The Four Steps to become better prepared are: 1) Build a Kit; 2) Make a Plan; 3) Be Informed; 4) Get Involved; as described on FEMA's *Ready.gov* page: <http://www.ready.gov/>. Scores of Preparedness Activities are taking place throughout the month of September by local emergency management agencies, private entities and MEMA to promote Personal and Family Preparedness. A calendar of state and national events appears at [www.ready.gov/get-involved](http://www.ready.gov/get-involved).

## **MEMA & WALMART TEAM UP**

MEMA and Walmart stores throughout MA are encouraging every family to follow the four preparedness steps to help make us all safer. Throughout September, special National Preparedness Month displays are located in MA Walmart stores with MEMA information and selected emergency kit items. More information about the MEMA/Walmart partnership and specific preparedness steps are available at [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

## **TODAY IS THE DAY BEFORE**

As part of National Preparedness Month, FEMA, in cooperation with all 50 states has produced a map on their *Ready.gov* page (<http://www.ready.gov/today>) depicting a specific day in history when a major disaster took place in each state. It is entitled, "Today is the Day Before. Are You Ready for Tomorrow?" It points out the importance of planning and preparing for a disaster, even if it were only the day before. Massachusetts highlights *The Blizzard of '78* and its impact.

## **POST-DISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE**

MEMA and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) recently announced the availability of FEMA post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds. This post-disaster hazard mitigation grant funding is available as a result of the federal disaster declaration for the October 2011 Snowstorm. Grant program briefings and technical assistance opportunities will be held throughout September in different locations – the deadline for submission of HMGP applications is December 3, 2012. The grant briefings will provide an overview of the HMGP program, eligible activities, available funding and relevant application process/deadlines. Interested sub-applicants considering submission of an HMGP application are strongly encouraged to attend a scheduled briefing. Details regarding the grant program briefings are available on the 'Hazard Mitigation Grants' portion of the 'Disaster Recovery & Mitigation' section of the MEMA website at [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

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Deval L. Patrick, Governor  
Timothy P. Murray, Lieutenant Governor

Mary Elizabeth Heffernan, Secretary of Public Safety & Security  
Kurt Schwartz, MEMA Director

Funding for hazard mitigation plans and projects is intended to reduce overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing the reliance on taxpayer-funded federal assistance for disaster recovery. State & local governments, tribal organizations and certain private non-profits may be eligible to apply with projects that can include storm-water upgrades, drainage and culvert improvements, property acquisition, slope stabilization, infrastructure protection, seismic and wind retrofits, structure elevations, etc. This HMGP funding is available to all communities in the Commonwealth that meet the sub-applicant and project eligibility requirements. FEMA's hazard mitigation grant programs are not intended as a source of funding for repair, replacement or deferred maintenance activities, but are designed to assist sub-applicants in developing long-term, cost-effective improvements that will reduce or eliminate risk/damage to people and property from the effects of natural hazards. Projects that address operation, deferred or future maintenance, repairs or replacement (without a change in the level of protection provided) of existing structures, facilities, or infrastructure (e.g., dredging, debris removal, replacement of obsolete utility systems, bridges and facility repair/rehabilitation) are not considered eligible mitigation grant activities.

### **MEMA STAFF CHANGES**

Kristen Jerome is now MEMA's Disaster Recovery Programs Coordinator, working in the Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Division. Kristen has served as the MEMA Region III/IV Administrative Assistant. Paula Krumsiek has joined the MEMA Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Division as a Disaster Recovery Contract Specialist, and Andrew Bagdonas now serves as the Business Applications Specialist, working in the Technical Services Division.

### **PILGRIM PRACTICE EXERCISE**

MEMA staff recently took part in an exercise of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station Emergency Plan. MEMA, partnering with MA Department of Public Health, MA Department of Mental Health, MassDOT, MA State Police, MA National Guard, Mass2-1-1, American Red Cross, FEMA and Pilgrim Station successfully conducted the practice exercise. Local officials from the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) communities again provided strong participation. There is an additional 'practice exercise' scheduled for October, in anticipation of the federally graded exercise scheduled for Pilgrim in November.

### **RECORDED EMERGENCY INFORMATION AVAILABLE**

MEMA has recorded important Nuclear Emergency Information found in the calendars, that are distributed annually by the Pilgrim, Seabrook, and Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Stations, to residents of their respective 10-mile Emergency Planning Zones (EPZs). This audio information, which covers information such as Warnings, the Emergency Alert System, Sheltering in Place, Evacuations, those who need Additional Assistance and Pets, is available on the MEMA Website and on CDs at local libraries within the EPZs. The recordings were made possible through the studios of the Talking Information Center in Marshfield.

### **MEMA TAKES EMAC LEAD DURING HURRICANE ISAAC**

MEMA continues to serve as the national lead for the 'Emergency Management Assistance Compact' (EMAC). EMAC offers assistance during governor-declared states of emergency through a responsive, straightforward system that allows states to request or send personnel, equipment, and commodities to help disaster relief efforts in other states. MEMA staff coordinated scores of requests for assistance from Gulf coast states for the response to and recovery from Hurricane Isaac, for a number of days, from the State Emergency Operations Center in Framingham. MEMA Local Coordinator Rich LaTour was deployed to assist at the National Coordination Center in Washington DC. To date, requests have included variable message boards to warn citizens of impending flooding; Information Technology staff to support Louisiana's Department of Children & Family Services; 911 operators; Public Information Officers; National Guard helicopters; ambulances; firefighters to backfill;

knowledgeable Individual assistance personnel. This assistance has been provided by such states as Massachusetts, California, Texas, Tennessee, North Carolina, West Virginia and Washington DC.

### **UPDATED 2011 DISASTERS RECOVERY STATUS**

January 11-12 Blizzard – (DR-1959): FEMA Public Assistance - \$25.9M.

June 1 Tornado (DR-1994): FEMA Individual Assistance – 1,081 individuals approved for aid with \$4.9M distributed; Small Business administration – 283 homeowner and business loans totaling \$16.7M; FEMA Public Assistance - \$25.4M.

Tropical Storm Irene (DR-4028): FEMA Individual Assistance – 695 individuals approved for aid with \$5.5M distributed; Small Business Administration – 80 homeowner and business loans totaling \$3.4M; FEMA Public Assistance - \$26M.

October 29-30 Nor'easter (DR-4051): FEMA Public Assistance - \$70.8M.

FEMA recovery information is available at <http://www.fema.gov/disasters>.

### **MONSONS HONORS STUDENT NAMED TO 'NATIONAL YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL'**

FEMA's new National Youth Preparedness Council has named Monson student Rachel Little as their Region I representative. Rachel is a freshman honors student who is involved in the Massachusetts Governor's Council as a youth advisor. As part of this group, she participated in Project 351 for the September 11 Day of Service, traveling to Boston to meet with other youth and to participate in several community service projects. Also through the Governor's Council, she participated in *Cradles to Crayons*, a group in the Boston area that collects clothing and items for children in need. Rachel works with the Street Angels, helping and caring for the 2011 Tornado survivors, and has participated in Care Kits for Troops and *Step-Up Day*, a mentoring program on youth experience. Rachel left the Council's Washington DC meeting with FEMA administration with a project to develop a teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program at her high school.

### **MEMA TO HAVE PRESENCE AT BIG E**

MEMA will again have a presence at the Eastern States Exhibition (Big E) in West Springfield. Over the course of the 17-day event, from September 14<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>, MEMA Region III/IV Staff will be available at our informational booth answering questions, distributing literature and promoting Preparedness. Massachusetts Day is celebrated at the Big E on September 20<sup>th</sup>. For more information about the event, go to [www.thebige.com](http://www.thebige.com).

### **SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND WEATHER CONFERENCE**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern New England Weather Conference will be held on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at Meditech Corp. in Canton, MA. located at the base of the Blue Hills. The conference is sponsored by the Blue Hill Observatory Science Center. Unlike previous conferences, which covered a wide range of meteorological topics, this year's event will explore in-depth 3 major events that occurred in 2011: 1) June 1 Springfield/Monson/Brimfield Tornado; 2) Tropical Storm Irene; and 3) "Snowtober" - the late October snowstorm. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Greg Forbes, the Severe Weather Expert from *The Weather Channel* in Atlanta, to discuss the very severe 2011 that struck the entire nation. Also, before the conference, there will be a "Breakfast with Matt" with some tidbits about various weather websites. Registration (collected by Blue Hill Observatory Science Center) after September 10 is \$99 (\$109 at the door). This includes a continental breakfast and lunch buffet provided by Rita's Catering of Boston. Conference website: <http://www.snewweatherconf.org>.

### **HURRICANE SEASON IN FULL SWING**

The 2012 Atlantic Hurricane Season remains quite active. As of mid-September, there have been 13 named storms, with seven of them reaching hurricane strength. To date, Hurricane Isaac has been the only storm with serious impact on the U.S. Mainland, leaving a path of flooding and damage along

the Gulf Coast. The only storm of consequence to New England has been Hurricane Lesley, producing high seas and rip currents.

### **AUGUST TRAINING UPDATE**

During this past month, an additional 60 individuals attended 6 different classes receiving training through MEMA in the following subject areas: *ICS-100/NIMS-700*, *Resource Management System (RMS) Basic*, and *Resource Management System (RMS) - System Administrator*. Year-to-date, 1,371 have been trained. For additional information regarding MEMA Training and future classes, go to [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema)

### **RMS INVOLVEMENT ENCOURAGED**

Additional communities are encouraged to complete Resource Management System (RMS) Training and begin to actively enter and update their resources and facilities into the system. The RMS, which was developed with financial support from the state's Homeland Security Councils and the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security (EOPSS), is a secure web-based system that may be used by all cities and towns, state agencies and other emergency management partners including public works, public health and emergency medical services, to facilitate emergency and non-emergency mutual aid across the Commonwealth. MEMA urges all cities and towns, agencies and organizations to take full advantage of RMS by using it as an internal inventory management system and to facilitate emergency and non-emergency mutual aid support. The success of the Resource Management System, meaning the degree to which it helps municipalities, agencies and organizations locate needed resources during emergencies, ultimately depends on the commitment of the system's users to complete the training, enter their resources (equipment, people and specialized teams) into the system, and to keep the system updated. To date, over 100 entities have completed Resource Management System (RMS) Training, with over 30 actively entering and updating their resources and facilities into the system. MEMA is presently testing a mobile version of the RMS Website. Please contact your respective MEMA Regional Office to request additional assistance, if needed.

### **MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS**

MEMA continues to encourage all communities and governmental entities to take advantage of the opportunity to opt into the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement program. To date, 229 entities are on board with the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and 159 have signed onto the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. See the list at [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema). Local officials with any questions regarding the Agreement should contact their MEMA Regional Office or Allen Phillips, MEMA Operations Manager at (508) 820-1426 or [allen.phillips@state.ma.us](mailto:allen.phillips@state.ma.us).

### **NATIONAL CYBER PLEDGE**

The [Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center \(MS-ISAC\)](http://msisac.cisecurity.org) has launched its "Cyber Pledge" contest, which aims to raise awareness about staying safe online and encourages individuals to confirm their commitment to doing their part to keep cyber space safe. This pledge is one of several initiatives underway to celebrate National Cyber Security Awareness Month this October. The MS-ISAC, a division of the Center for Internet Security, is the focal point for cyber threat prevention, protection, response and recovery for the nation's state, local, territorial and tribal (SLTT) governments. MA is a member of the MS-ISAC and is pleased to participate in this national pledge. Cyber Security Is Our Shared Responsibility and there are many steps we can take at home, work and school to protect ourselves and our information online, such as locking our computer when we leave our work area, never leaving a written password near our computer, or safeguarding portable computing equipment when in public places. The contest is conducted September 10th through October 31st, 2012 and you may sign the pledge by visiting <http://msisac.cisecurity.org/cyber-pledge/>. Everyone is encouraged to sign the Cyber Pledge and demonstrate the commitment to

taking cyber security seriously. If we each pledge to do our part to make our piece of cyber space just a little bit more secure, we can truly make a difference in helping protect our nation's cyber security. As part of this national pledge campaign, the MS-ISAC will be recognizing the state and local governments with the most number of citizens who sign the pledge. There will be a total of four winners as follows: 1) State with the most signed pledges; 2) State with signed pledges from the highest percentage of its population; 3) Local government with the largest number of citizens and 4) Local government with the highest percentage of its citizens. Last year, Massachusetts finished 2<sup>nd</sup> by just 10 pledges.

### **NEDRIX ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup>, the Northeast Disaster Recovery Information X-Change (NEDRIX) will offer their 2012 Annual Conference at the Hyatt regency in Newport, RI. Details about the conference, which is entitled "Strengthening Regional Resilience: A 'Whole Community' Approach" are available on the NEDRIX website: <http://www.nedrix.com/>.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA ADDRESSES**

MEMA has streamlined its Social Media addresses: Twitter is [www.twitter.com/MassEMA](http://www.twitter.com/MassEMA); Facebook is [www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA](http://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA); and YouTube is [www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA](http://www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA).

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